

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of determining a set of predicted readers of a data block in a multiprocessor system, the method comprising the steps of:

determining a current set of readers of a data block which is subject to a write request;
and

generating the set of predicted readers based on the current set of readers and at least one additional set of readers representative of at least a portion of a global history of a directory associated with the data block.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the generating step further comprises the step of applying a function to the current set of readers and at least one additional set of readers.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the function comprises at least one of a union function, an intersection function and a pattern-based function.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the directory and the data block comprise elements of a memory associated with a processor node of the multiprocessor system.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the global history of the directory comprises a plurality of sets of previous readers processed by the directory, the total number of the plurality of sets of previous readers corresponding to a designated history depth associated with generation of the set of predicted readers.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the global history is maintained in a shift register having a number of storage locations corresponding to the designated history depth.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the history depth is greater than two.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein each reader in the system maintains an accessed bit for each of a plurality of data blocks, the accessed bit of a particular reader for a given data block indicating whether the particular reader has actually read the given data block.

5 9. The method of claim 8 wherein accessed bit information is sent by the particular reader to the directory in conjunction with an invalidation acknowledgment.

10 10. The method of claim 1 wherein after the requested write on the data block is completed, the resulting data block is sent to each of the readers in the set of predicted readers.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the generating step utilizes a direct update mechanism.

15 12. The method of claim 1 wherein the generating step utilizes a forwarded update mechanism.

13. The method of claim 2 wherein the function is selected dynamically.

20 14. The method of claim 13 wherein the function is selected on a per-program basis, such that each of a plurality of programs running in the multiprocessor system can independently determine the function to be applied to determine the set of predicted readers.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein the function is selected under program control and can be selected at run time by a given program running on the multiprocessor system.

25 16. The method of claim 13 wherein the function is selected on a per-page basis, such that the function applied can be determined independently for each of a plurality of memory pages, each of which may be comprised of one or more data blocks.

17. The method of claim 13 wherein the function is selected based at least in part on information regarding network utilization.

18. The method of claim 1 wherein the generating step further includes utilizing information regarding the global history of the directory in conjunction with at least a subset of cache address information associated with one or more of the readers to determine the set of predicted readers.

19. The method of claim 1 wherein the generating step further includes utilizing information regarding the global history of the directory in conjunction with processor node information associated with one or more of the readers to determine the set of predicted readers.

20. The method of claim 1 wherein the wherein the generating step further includes utilizing information regarding the global history of the directory in conjunction with program counter information associated with one or more of the readers to determine the set of predicted readers.

21. The method of claim 1 wherein each of at least a subset of the readers corresponds to a particular processor node in the multiprocessor system.

22. An apparatus for determining a set of predicted readers of a data block in a multiprocessor system, the apparatus comprising:

a processor node operative to determine a current set of readers of a data block which is subject to a write request, and to implement a prediction mechanism which generates the set of predicted readers based on the current set of readers and at least one additional set of readers representative of at least a portion of a global history of a directory associated with the data block.

23. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the set of predicted readers is generated at least in part by applying a function to the current set of readers and at least one additional set of readers.

24. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the function comprises at least one of a union function, an intersection function and a pattern-based function.

25. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the directory and the data block comprise elements of a memory associated with the processor node.

26. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the global history of the directory comprises a plurality of sets of previous readers processed by the directory, the total number of the plurality of sets of previous readers corresponding to a designated history depth associated with generation of the set of predicted readers.

27. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the global history is maintained in a shift register having a number of storage locations corresponding to the designated history depth.

28. A multiprocessor system comprising:
a plurality of processor nodes, at least a given one of the processor nodes being operative to determine a current set of readers of a data block which is subject to a write request, the given processor node implementing a prediction mechanism which generates a set of predicted readers of the data block based on the current set of readers and at least one additional set of readers representative of at least a portion of a global history of a directory associated with the data block.

29. The system of claim 28 wherein the set of predicted readers are generated at least in part by applying a function to the current set of readers and at least one additional set of readers.

30. The system of claim 29 wherein the function comprises at least one of a union function and an intersection function.

31. The system of claim 28 wherein the directory and the data block comprise elements of a memory associated with the given processor node.

32. The system of claim 28 wherein the global history of the directory comprises a plurality of sets of previous readers processed by the directory, the total number of the plurality of sets of previous readers corresponding to a designated history depth associated with generation of the set of predicted readers.

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33. The system of claim 32 wherein the global history of the directory is maintained in a shift register associated with a corresponding one of the processor nodes and having a number of storage locations corresponding to the designated history depth.

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34. The system of claim 28 wherein each of at least a subset of the readers corresponds to a particular one of the processor nodes in the multiprocessor system.

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